



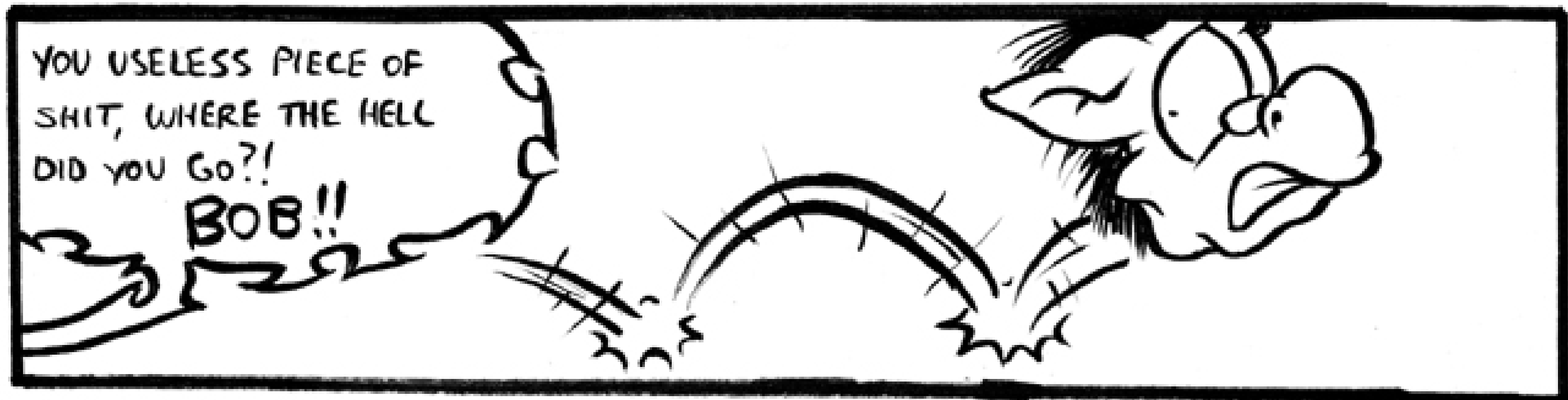
BOB!

ROBERT!

WHERE
ARE YOU?!

XLIV

CHOOSING SIDES...



YOU USELESS PIECE OF
SHIT, WHERE THE HELL
DID YOU GO?!

BOB!!



THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT TO EAT!!



FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU BETTER ALREADY BE OUT THAT
DAMNED DOOR HUNTING...



WHERE ARE YOU,
YOU LAZY,
DICKLESS
BASTARD?!

GOD DAMN IT, ROBERT,
WHERE ARE YOU??



IF YOU'RE ASLEEP
SOMEWHERE, I
SWEAR TO GOD!

BOB!!

HE WILL BE HERE SOON 'CAUSE THAT'S THE MAGIC OF
FRIENDSHIP..."WILL HE BE MY FRIEND TOO?"

I DON'T KNOW NUTTERFLY...PERHAPS IF WE ALL CUT OFF
TWILIGHT SPRINKLE'S HEAD MY FRIEND WILL LIKE YOU TOO.
"XOXO BEST FRIENDS FOREVER"

BOB!

BE HERE SOON...MY FRIEND
WILL BE HERE SOON

LITA, I REALLY NEED
TO TALK TO YOU

NO YOU DON'T.

LITA, I'M SORRY. I'M
REALLY REALLY SORRY.

CLIFF, WE'RE DONE
TALKING...

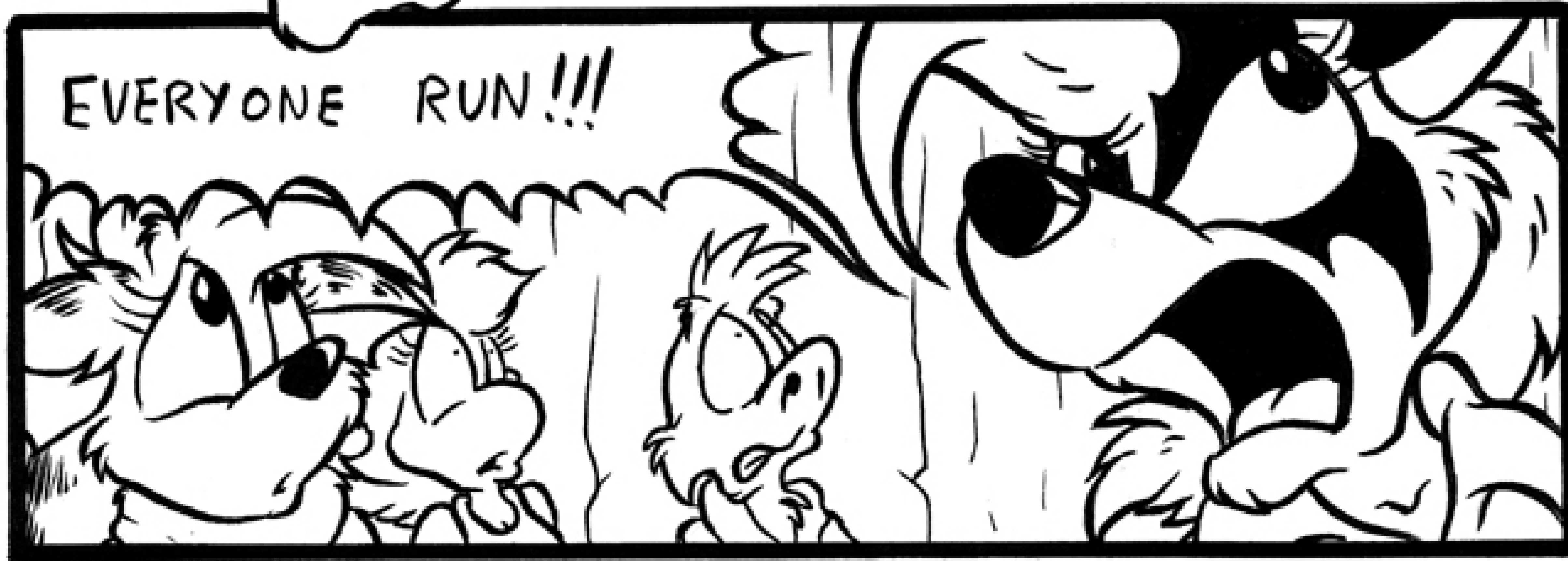
GET BACK IN THE
REAR AND COVER OUR
FLANK.

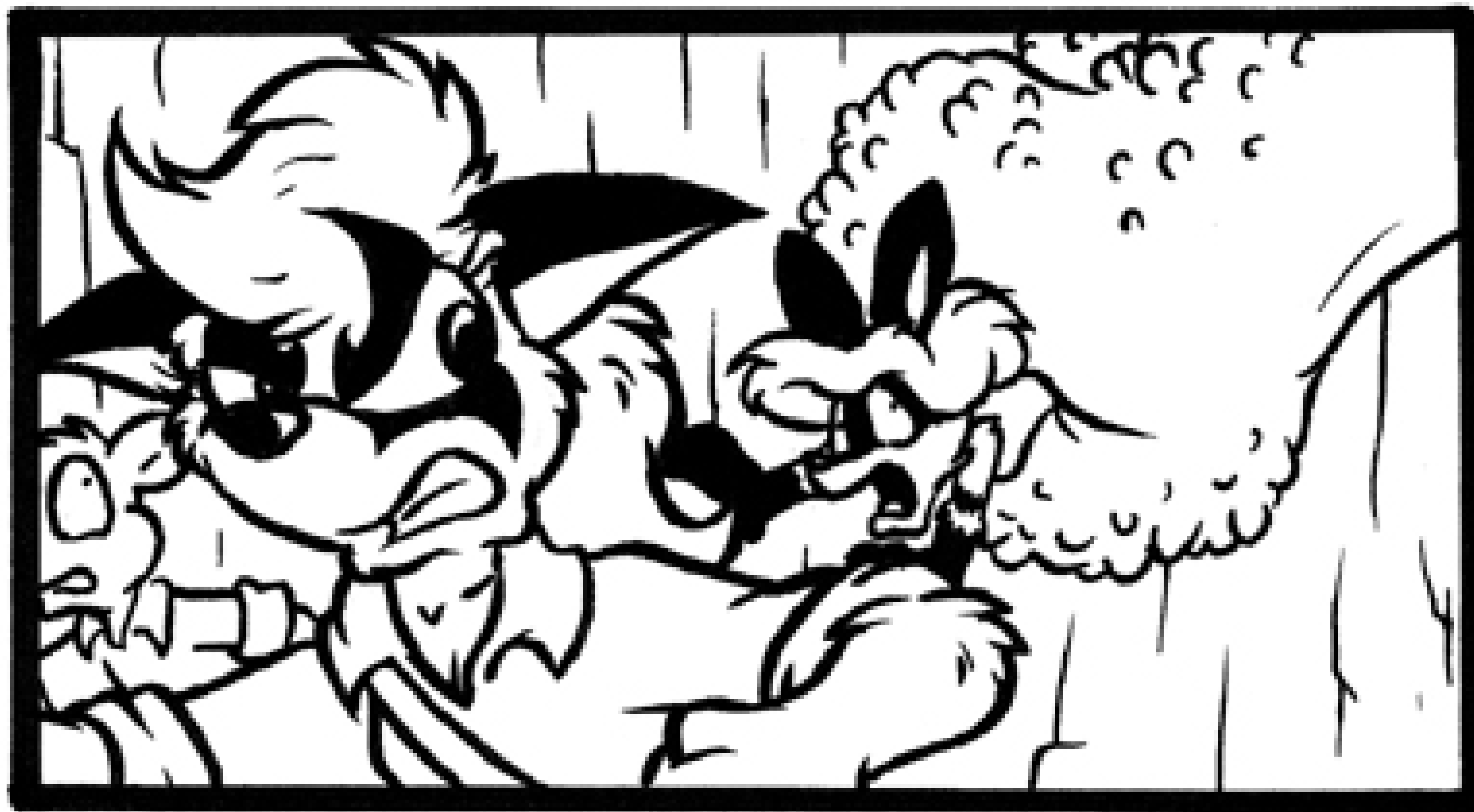
IS IT TRUE? THAT WOMAN HE
KILLED IN THE REFUGEE CAMP—

YEAH. CALLING HER
BY MY NAME THE
WHOLE TIME.

I'VE GOT ENOUGH SHIT TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW WITHOUT
CARRYING HIS BAGGAGE TOO. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT WE
NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET RIGHT NOW, I'D BE DONE WITH
HIS SORRY ASS.

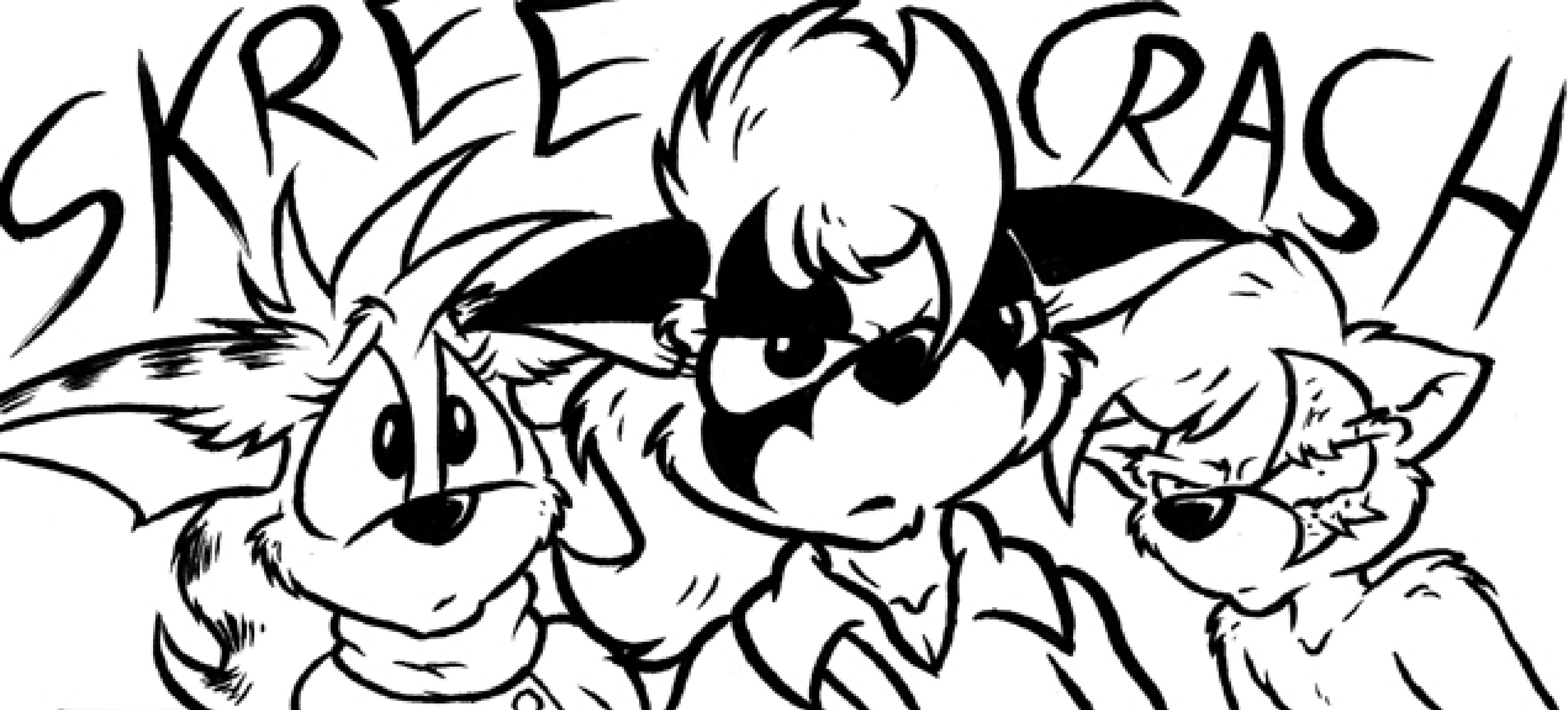
WELL, WE'RE MAKING GOOD TIME, AT LEAST. THE CAVE SHOULD BE JUST AROUND THE NEXT—











TAKE ME TO YOUR
LEADER...

SO WHERE DO
WE STAND WITH HER?

VANITY CONTINUES TO BE NAIVE
AND REFUSES TO TAKE SIDES.

HER TOWER HAS TO BE A TEMPTING TARGET
FOR KANE. THE POWER SHE COLLECTED FROM THE
SOULS SHE HAS TRAPPED UNDERNEATH... IF IT CAN
CHANGE HELL'S LANDSCAPE, WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE
IT COULD DO.



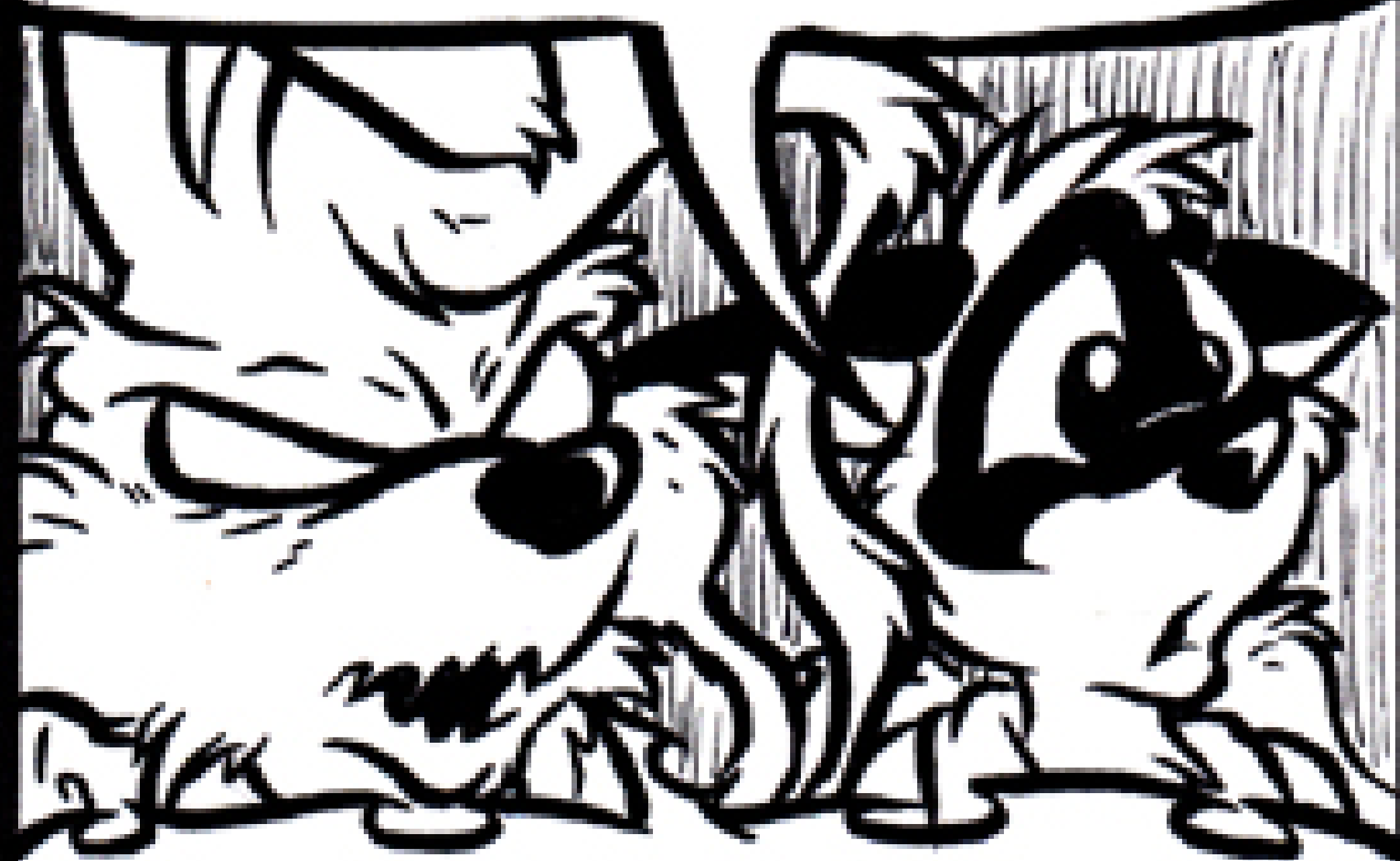
NULLIFYING THE TOWER IS OUT OF THE
QUESTION. THE SOULS TRAPPED UNDER IT ARE
TOO DEEPLY INTEGRATED WITH IT. SEPARATING
EACH SOUL TAKES A LONG TIME.



I AGREE WITH RECKONIN, KANE'S
NEXT MOVE WILL BE TO TAKE
VANITY'S TOWER AND THAT IS
WHERE I MUST FACE HIM.



I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH JACK'S GROWING ARMY. THEY ALL SEEM DEDICATED, BUT THERE ARE VERY FEW PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS. KANE OUTNUMBERS THEM FIVE TO ONE.



BEAR IN MIND THAT HELL'S BATTLEFIELD IS LIKE NO OTHER. NUMBERS MATTER LESS THAN THE ABILITY TO RETURN RESPAWNED TROOPS TO THE FRONT.

GRANTED, BUT I THINK ITS TIME WE DISOUSED HEAVEN TAKING ON MORE THAN JUST A SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN THE COMING CONFLICT.



BOSS? THE NEW RECRUITS ARE HERE...

I'LL MEET WITH THEM ONCE I FINISH HERE, LITA...



UH HUH...WELL, I GOT A FEELING YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO MEET THIS GUY RIGHT NOW.



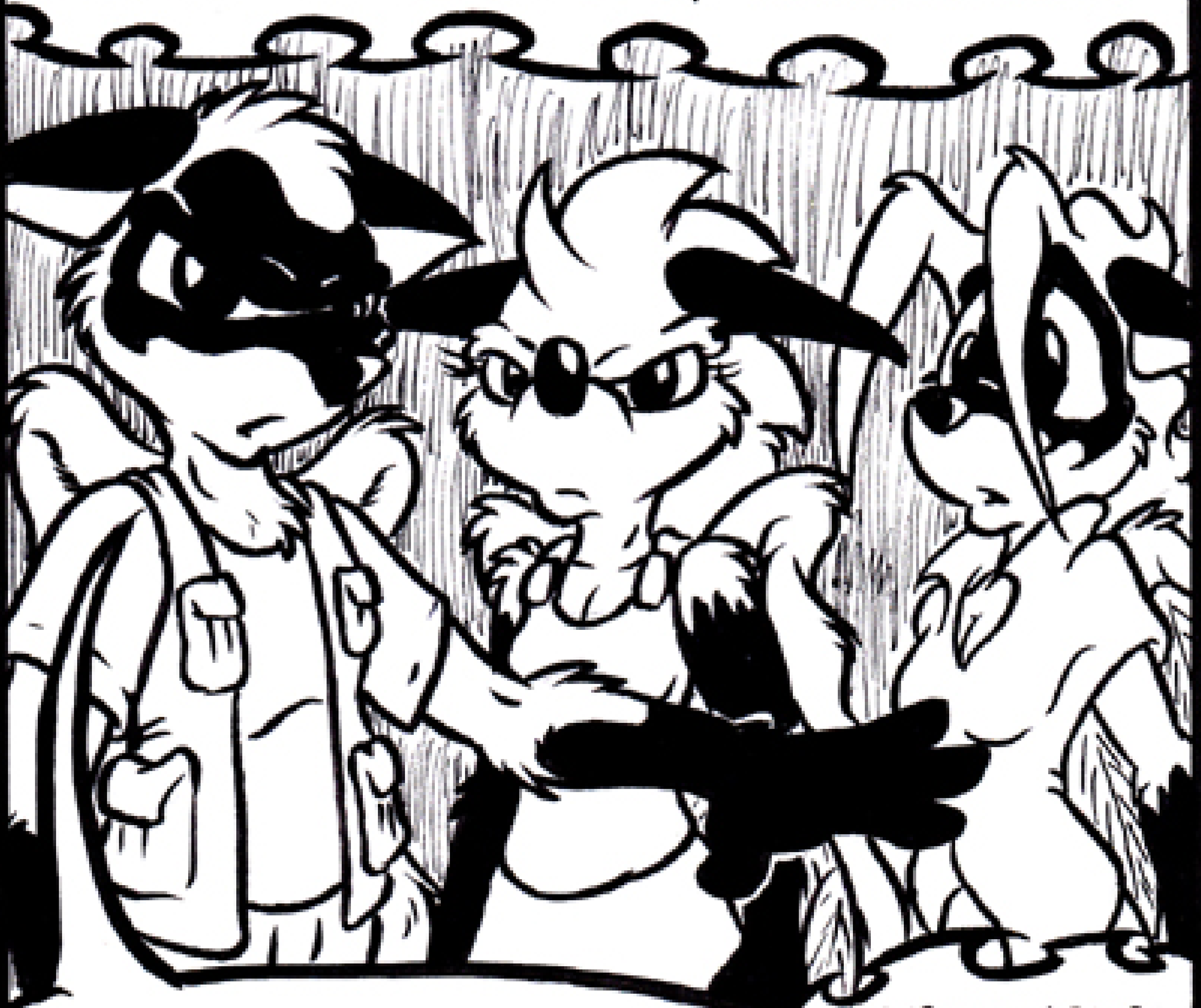
YOU ARE CORRECT, KANE'S NEXT GOAL IS VANITY'S TOWER. HOWEVER, HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR REVOLT AND IS COUNTING ON FIGHTING YOU THERE.

REALLY. THEN WHY WAIT? HE COULD JUST AS WELL ATTACK US NOW.



HE'S WAITING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEVERAL PIPELINES TO RETURN RESPAWNED TROOPS TO THE BATTLEFIELD. YOU WILL NEED TO DESTROY THESE PIPELINES WHEN THE BATTLE STARTS TO STAND A CHANCE.

YOU HOLY ROLLERS BETTER DO MORE THAN JUST TALK ABOUT HELPING. NOSTRUM HAS KANE CONVINCED HE CAN USE VANITY'S TOWER TO TRAVEL TO THE OTHER THREE REALMS, INCLUDING HEAVEN, AND IF THAT CRAZY FUCK SAYS HE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN BET ON IT.



AND YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW US WHERE THESE "PIPELINES" ARE BEING BUILT?

WE CAN LEAVE RIGHT NOW, IF YOU LIKE.



YOUR OFFER TO HELP US IS WELCOME, BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IF EVERYONE HERE IS SKEPTICAL.



ITS ABOUT HER, OF COURSE..
MY "BETTER HALF"...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ME TO SAY OTHER THAN I'M SWITCHING SIDES. I'LL FOLLOW JACK'S ORDERS AND PASS ALONG ANY INFORMATION ABOUT KANE'S PLANS I COME ACROSS. I DON'T CARE IF YOU TRUST ME OR NOT. I'M NOT GOING BACK.



IT ISN'T AS IF ITS UNHEARD
OF FOR A SIN TO SEEK
REDEMPTION.

I DON'T GIVE A
FUCK ABOUT REDEMPTION...

THEN WHAT IS
PROMPTING THIS
CHANGE IN HEART?



LISA!!

... WE WERE DRIVING CROSS
COUNTRY TO ESCAPE THE
AUTHORITIES...



WE WERE IN OUR FOURTH
YEAR OF BEING ON THE MOST
WANTED LIST...

I RECALL WE WERE
ACTUALLY DECENT TO EACH
OTHER WHEN WE CROSSED
OVER INTO CANADA.

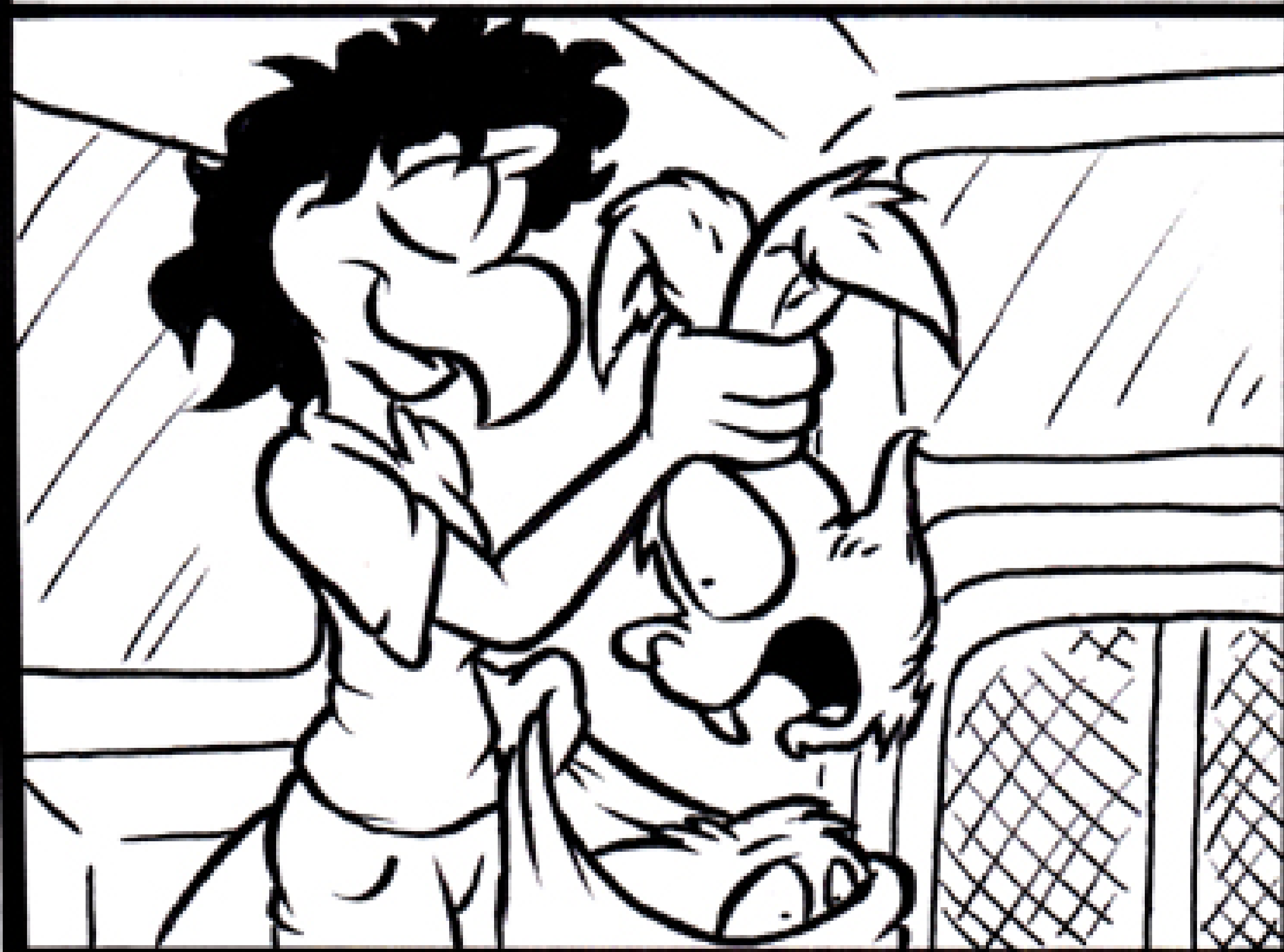


I WAS DRIVING... LISTENING TO
THE OLDIES STATION. I THINK
'SWEET CITY WOMAN' WAS PLAYING.

LOVE, TENDERNESS
AND MACAROONS



LISA WAS IN THE BACK FINISHING UP WITH
THE RV'S FORMER OWNERS



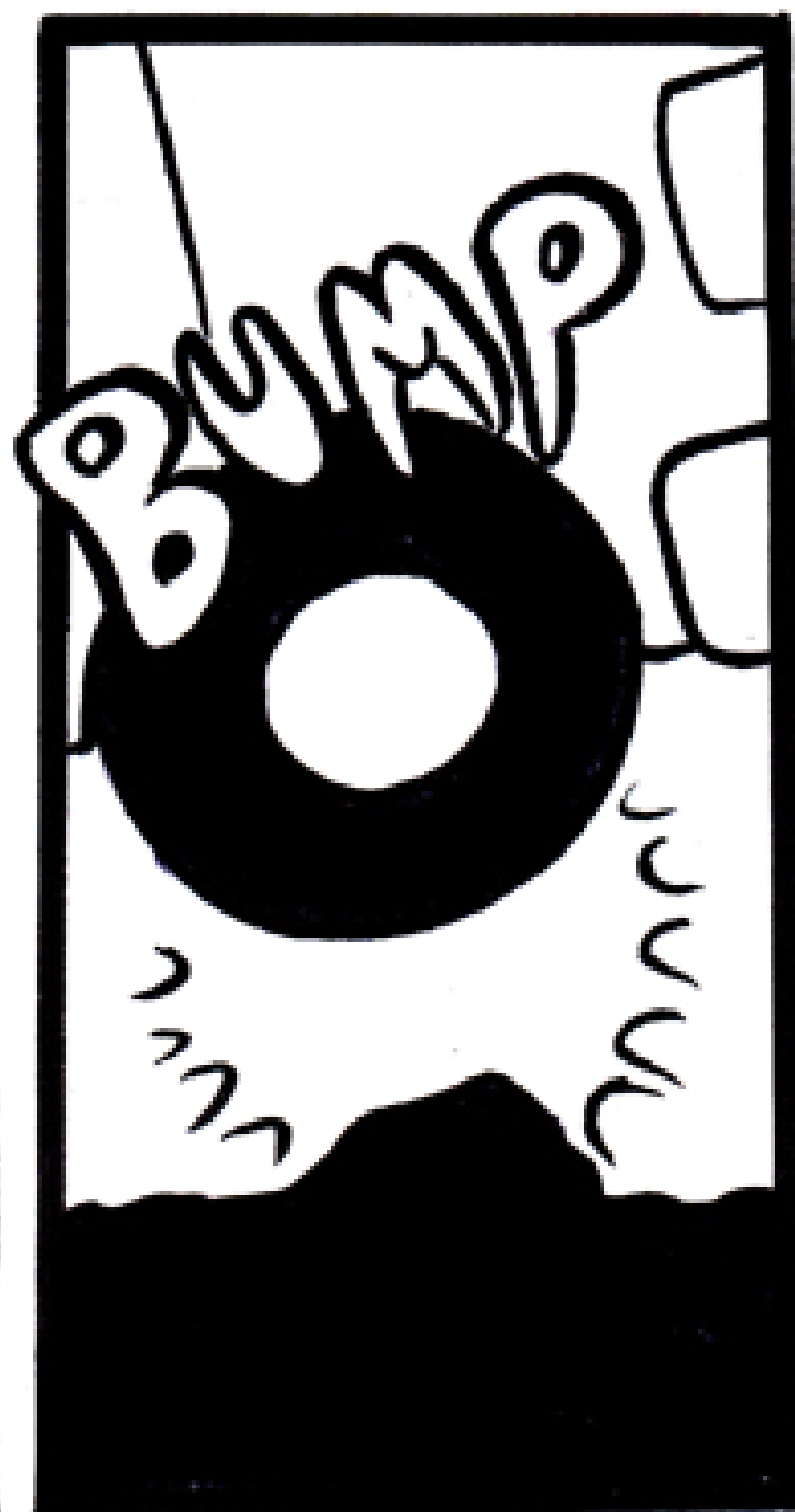
LISA? BRIDGE
COMING UP.

REA-DYY



OKAY, NOW, LISA.

THANKS FOR THE HEARTBURN,
RICKY AND CAROL!



AH!
SHIT!

WHAT THE FUCK WAS
THAT, ROBERT?!

IT WAS A BUMP, CALM DOWN.



"BUMP," MY ASS! YOU SWERVED! YOU TRIED TO
THROW ME OUT!

WE HAD ALWAYS
FOUGHT...

DO YOU EVER LISTEN TO YOURSELF?! WHY THE
FUCK WOULD I DO THAT?



WHY WOULDN'T YOU?! LIKE
YOU WOULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE TO SHAKE
ME OFF IF YOU COULD. I'M NOT STUPID,
YOU FUCKING DOUCHECANOE!

BUT IT BECAME WORSE THE MORE
WE REALIZED WE WEREN'T TOGETHER
BECAUSE WE LIKED EACH OTHER.

THAT EVENING, WE DITCHED
THE RV AND FOUND A HOME
THAT HAD JUST BEEN MOVED
INTO.



THE NEW OWNERS NEVER SAW
IT COMING.

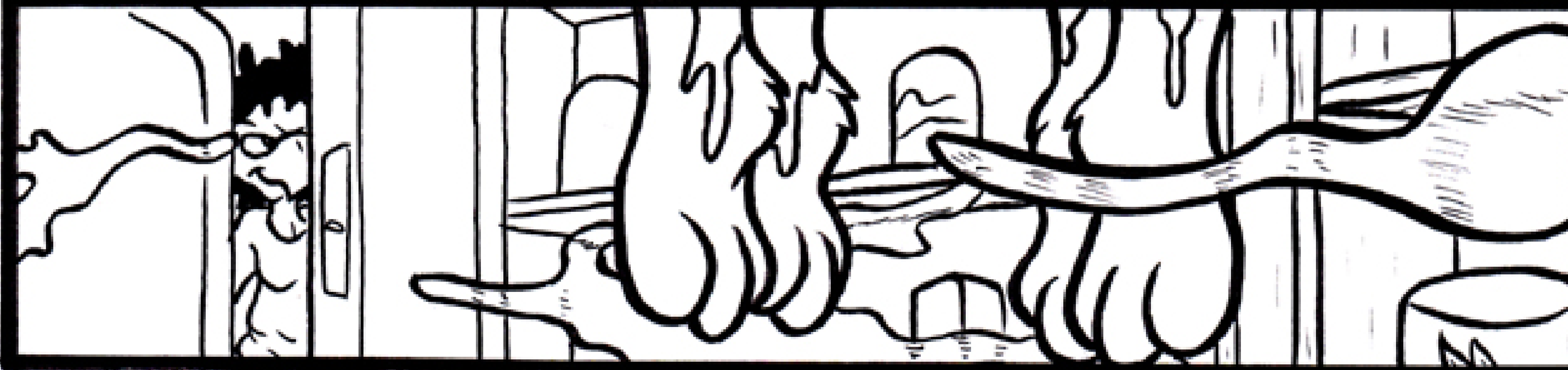


WE FIGURED WE COULD BORROW THEIR IDENTITIES
FOR A FEW DAYS AND LEAVE BEFORE ANYONE
STARTED TO QUESTION THINGS.



IT HAD WORKED BEFORE.

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW EXCITED WE WERE WHEN WE DISCOVERED THAT THIS HOUSE HAD A WALK-IN FREEZER IN ITS BASEMENT. THE FIRST OWNER RAN A DAIRY BUSINESS OUT OF HIS HOME. THE POOR BASTARDS THAT BOUGHT IT WERE ALREADY STORING THEIR PERISHABLES IN IT. WE STORED SOMETHING ELSE.



IN THE MORNING, A MOVING TRUCK ARRIVED AND THE WORKERS DIDN'T BAT AN EYE WHEN WE GREETED THEM AS THE OWNERS



WHILE HELPING THE MOVERS, I MET THE NEW NEIGHBOR "BRANGER".

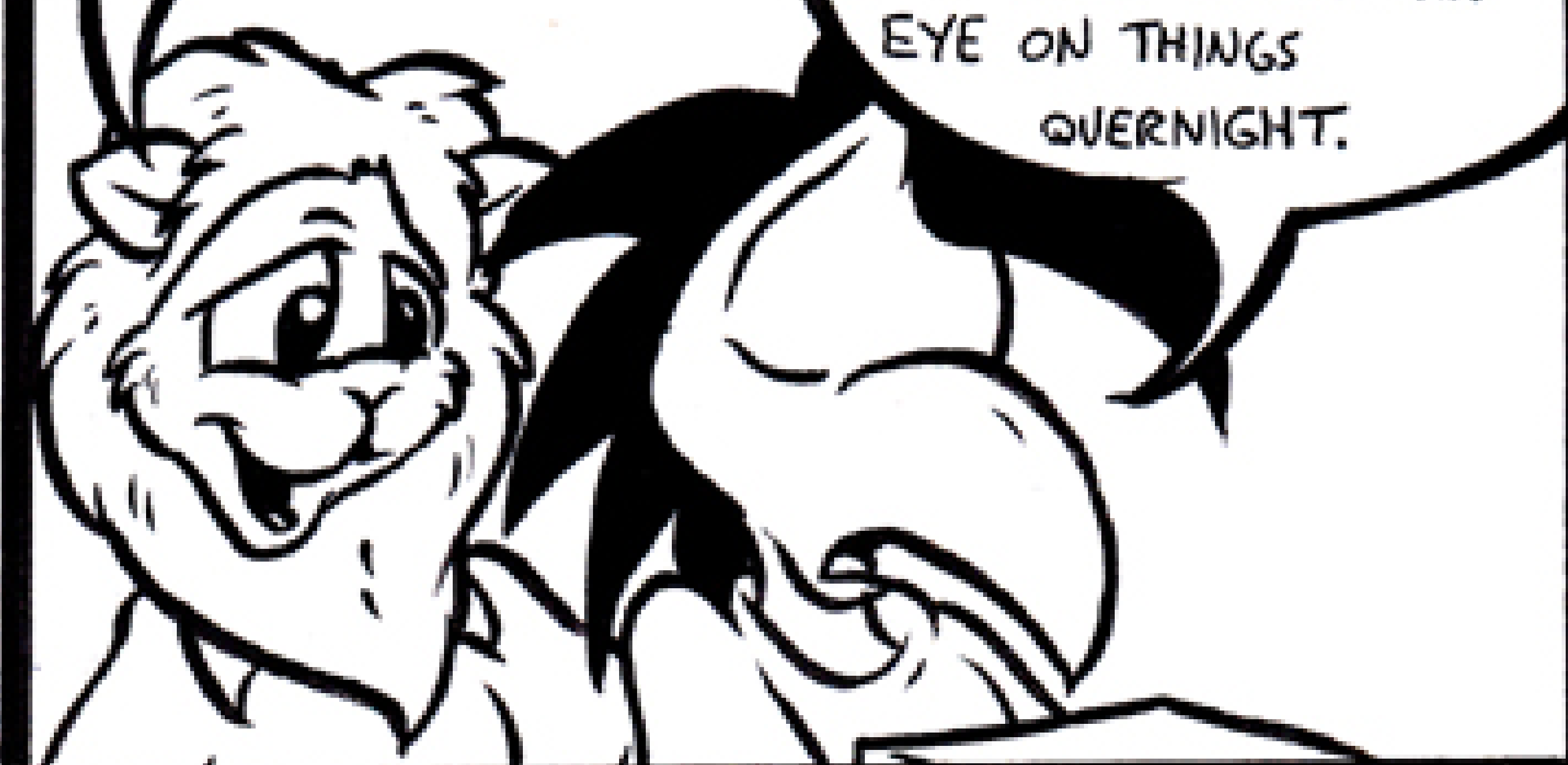
HEY THERE,
YOU MOVIN'
IN?

YEAHUP.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
FOLKS THAT SHOWED UP
YESTERDAY?

FRIENDS OF OURS,
THEY CAME AHEAD
OF US WHILE WE TIED
A FEW LOOSE ENDS OFF
BACK HOME TO KEEP AN
EYE ON THINGS
OVERNIGHT.



TOO BAD. THE WIFE WASN'T TOO
HOT, BUT HER ASS LOOKED LIKE IT
COULD TAKE IT. YA KNOW
WHAT I MEAN?

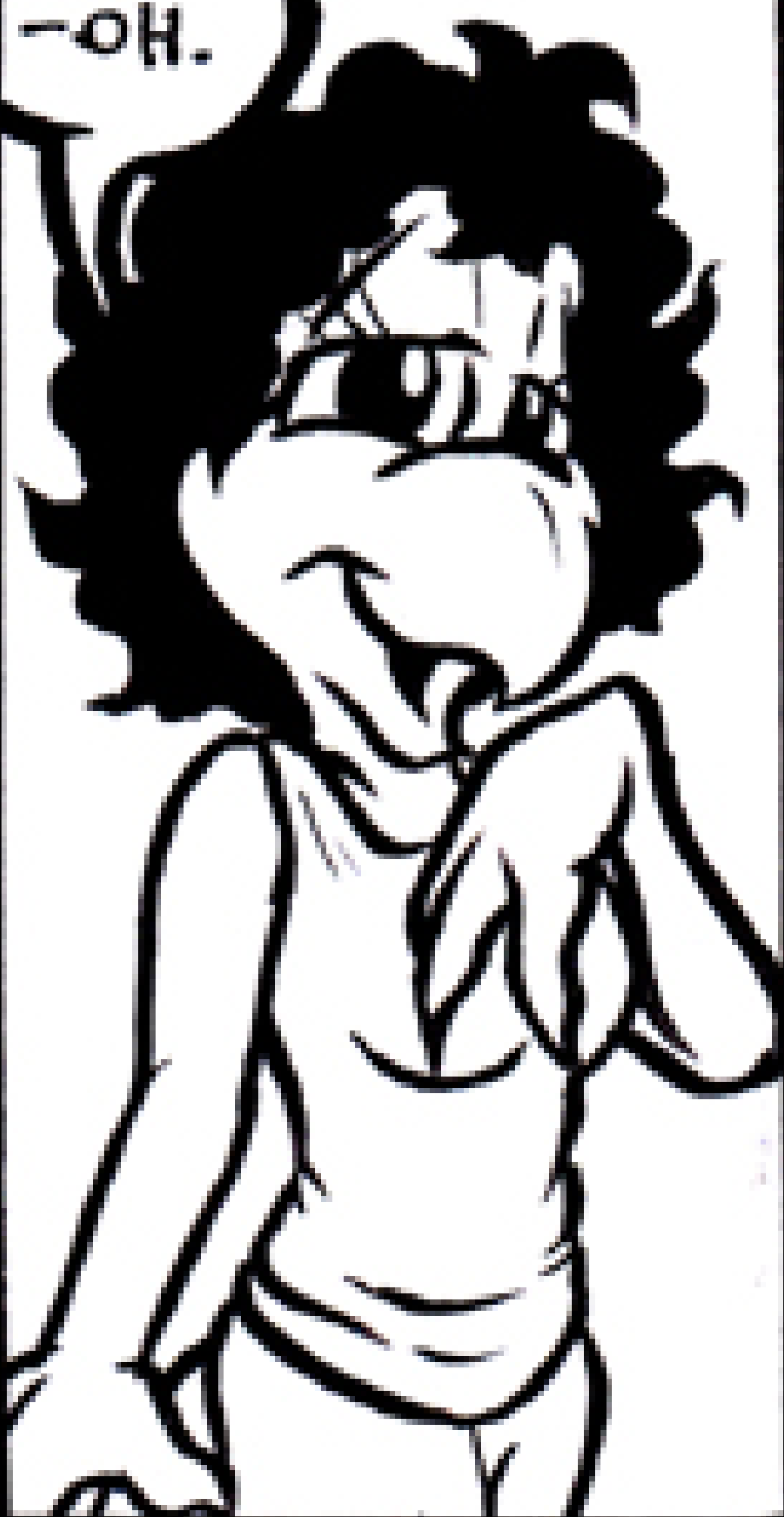
YEAH.
SURE...



ROBERT, WHAT THE HELL IS
KEEPING YOU?! THAT TRUCK'S
NOT GOING TO UNLOAD ITS—



—OH.



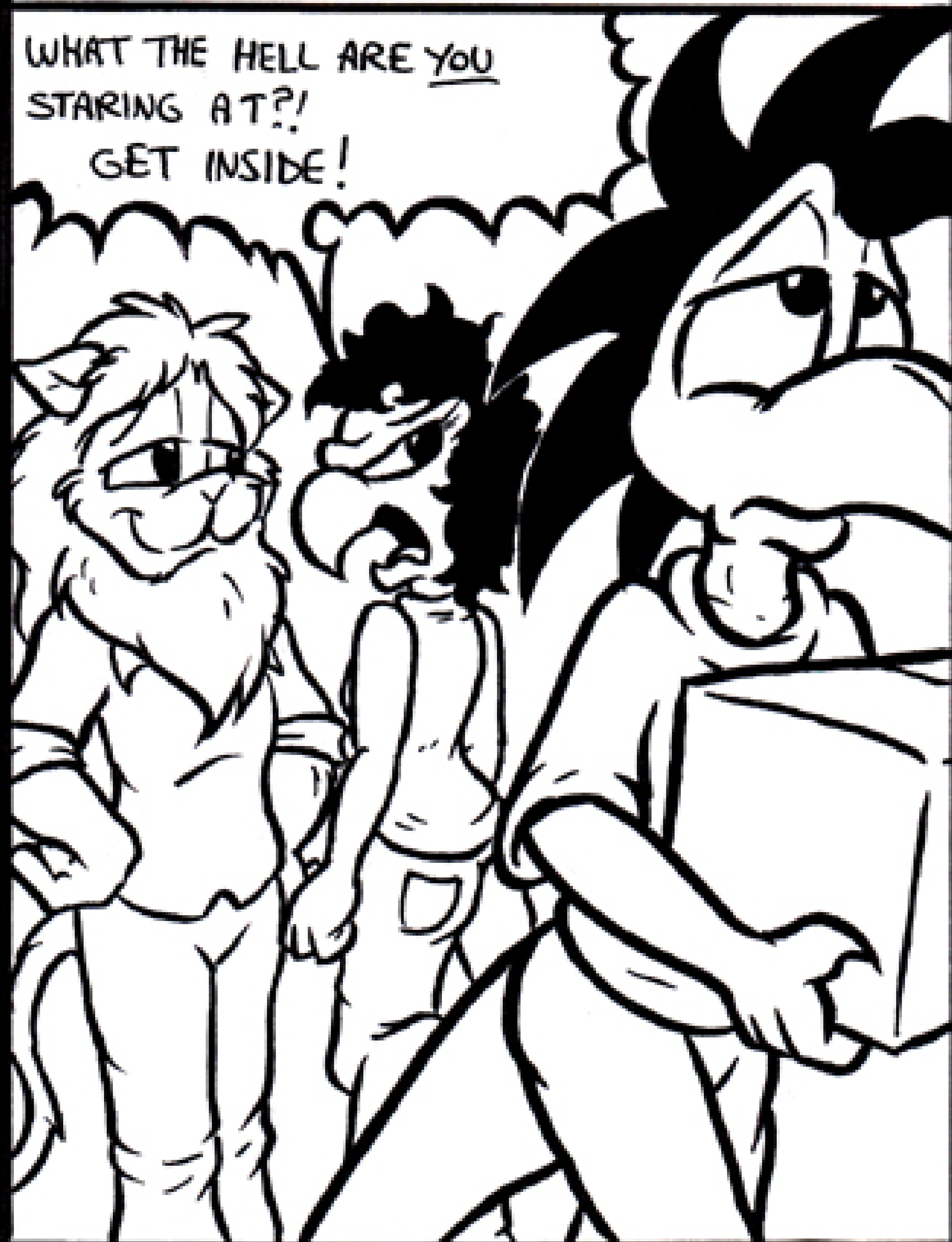
HELLO, I'M LISA.
THIS IS ROBERT.



BRANGER. WELCOME TO
THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

I HAD LEARNED TO TELL WHEN SHE WAS
FLIRTING TO BUTTER UP THE NEXT MEAL
AND WHEN SHE WAS FLIRTING BECAUSE SHE
WANTED TO FUCK...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU
STARING AT?!
GET INSIDE!



SHE HADN'T FUCK-FLIRTED
WITH ME IN A LONG TIME...



BUT SHE MADE IT CLEAR SHE WAS
GOING TO BANG THAT DOUCHEBAG AND
I WAS BEYOND CARING.



BEFORE I
GO ON...

I WANT TO ASK
YOU ANGELS
SOMETHING.

IT'S KINDA BEEN
EATING AT ME.

GO AHEAD. I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE GOING TO ASK.

I HEARD WHAT
HAPPENED TO FANGS.

WAS IT
YOU?

YES.

HRNN.
THOUGHT
SO.

WELL, THANKS FOR
THAT.

NO, NO. IF YOU SWING TOO WIDE, YOU'LL
JUST LEAVE YOURSELF OPEN TO—

LITA!

WANT ME TO
STAY?

NO. TWONE, YOU BETTER
TAKE OFF. THIS MIGHT
GET UGLY...

LITA, PLEASE ! I CAN EXPLAIN. I WAS UPSET, YES. ANGRY WITH YOU, EVEN, BUT—

NO ! YOU SHUT THE FUCK UP. I DON'T CARE.



LITA..... I LOVE YOU....



WELL, CLIFF,

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.



BUT.... BUT...

SO, ANYWAY...



IT WAS LATER THAT AFTERNOON.
LISA HAD FINISHED FLIRTING...

I WAS UNPACKING BOXES OF STUFF THAT WASN'T MINE

YES THIS IS 3825. NO...THIS IS THE DEGIST RESIDENCE. WELL, I'M SORRY BUT WE'VE LIVED HERE FOR YEARS. UH HUH. YOU TOO. 'NIGHT.



KNOCK
KNOCK



UHM...
HELLO?

HELLO...



I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF ELLIE WHEN I FIRST MET HER.

SHY, FIDGETY, AND COULDN'T LOOK ME IN THE EYE...

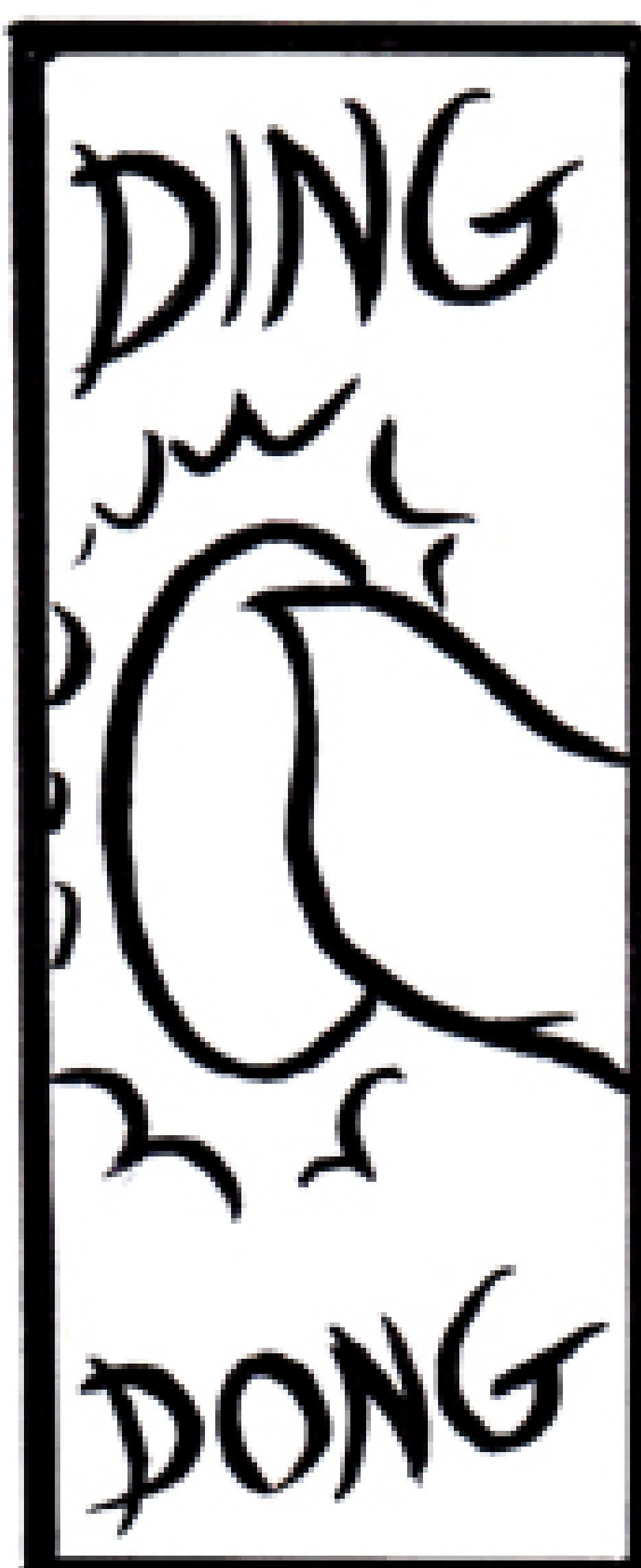
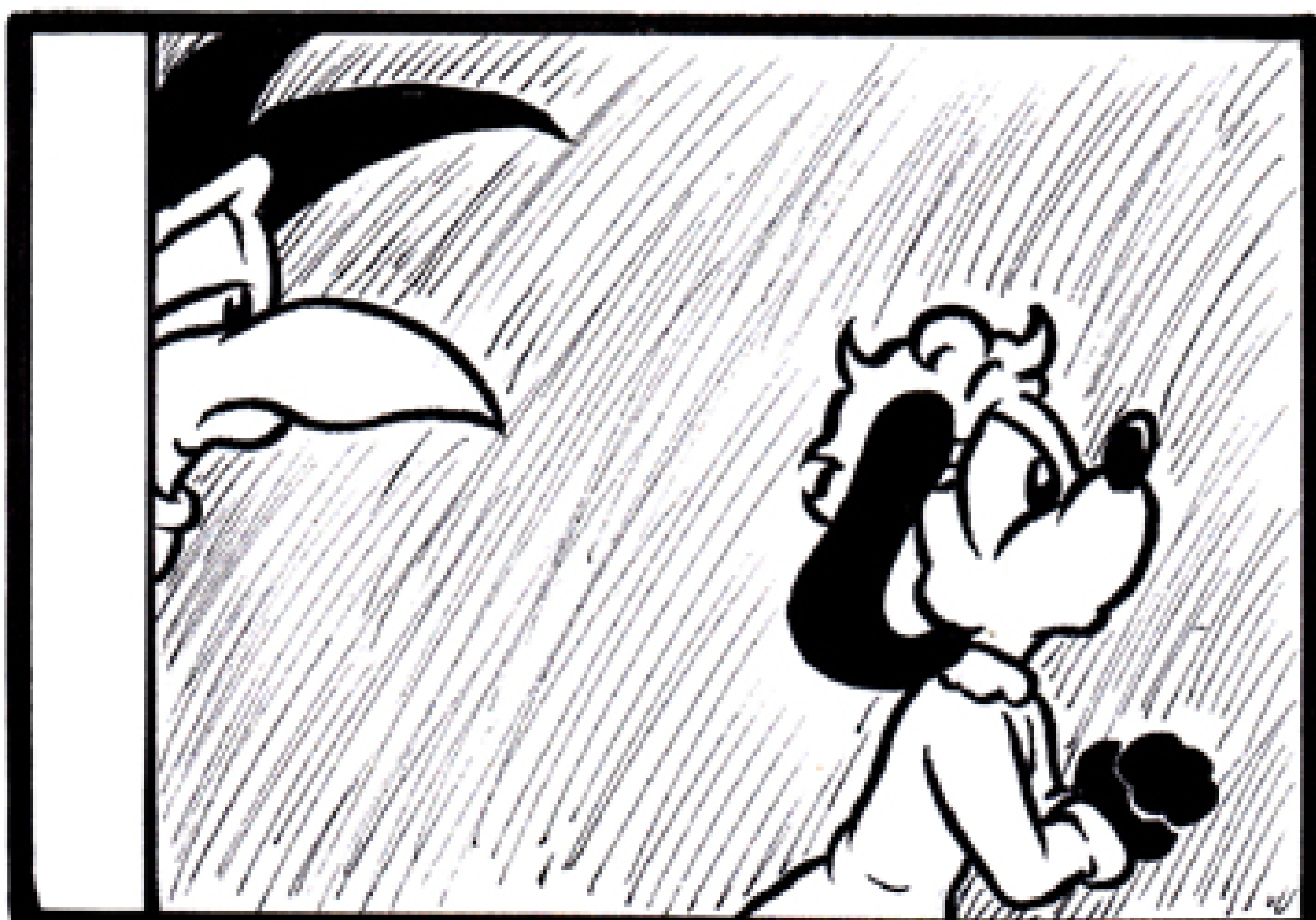
I REMEMBER THINKING THERE WASN'T EVEN ENOUGH MEAT ON HER TO LAST US A DAY.

MY HUSBAND WANTED ME TO ASK YOU AND YOUR WIFE OVER FOR DINNER TONIGHT.



UH... THANKS, BUT I DON'T THINK—
TELL HER WE'LL BE THERE !!







HELLO!

HOPE WE'RE
NOT TOO
EARLY!



NO.... PLEASE... COME IN.



HEYA, ROBBY! GOOD TO SEE
YOU! THANKS FOR COMING!

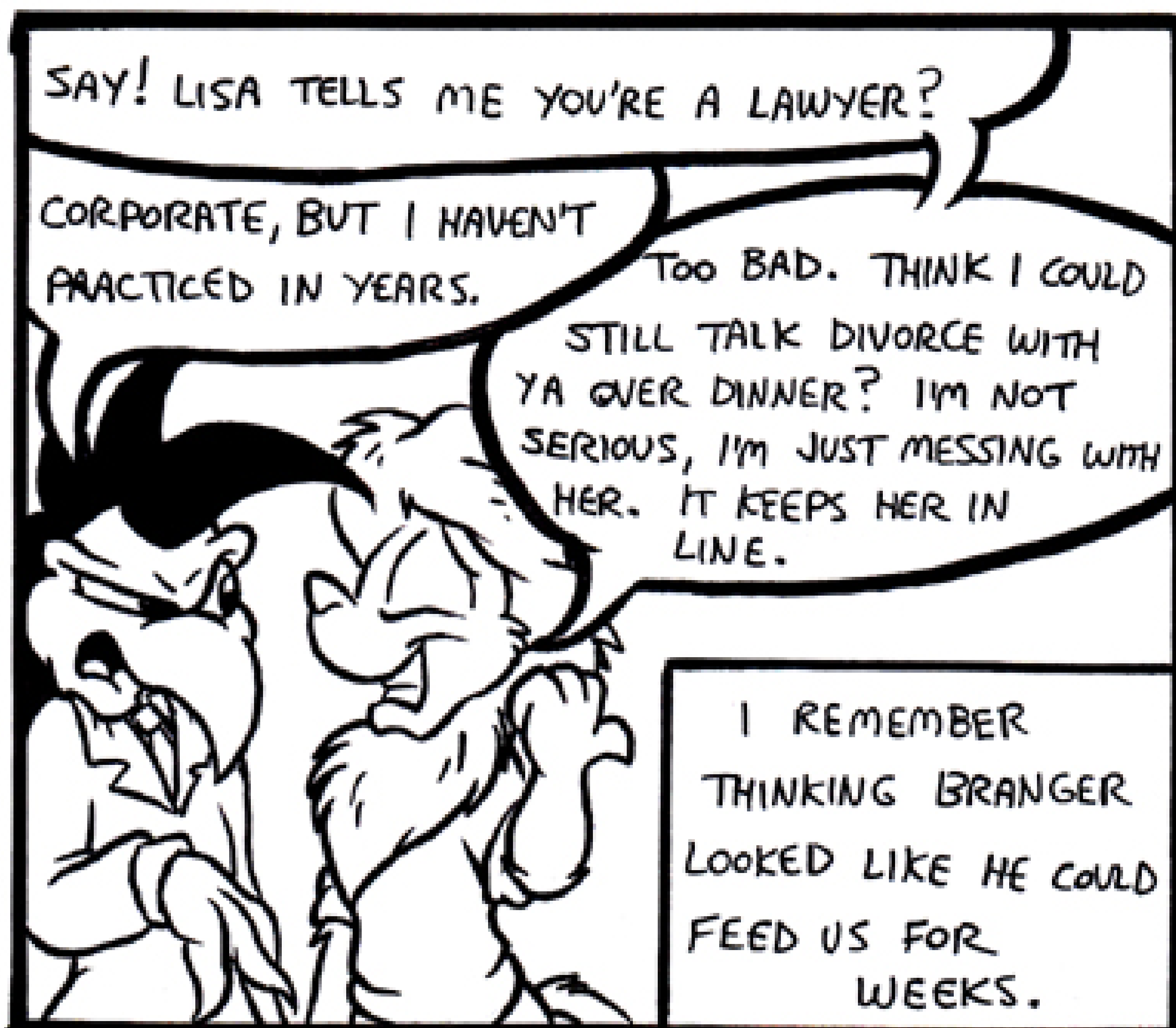


THE LITTLE WOMAN'S BEEN IN THE KITCHEN
ALL DAY COOKING UP GOD-KNOWS-WHAT. SAY,
HUN, BET ROBBY COULD GO FOR A PRE-DINNER BEER.
GET ME ONE TOO.

YES DEAR...



ELLIE'S A SWEET KID. DIDN'T
TAKE LONG TO GET HER TRAINED
EITHER. KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING
ABOUT, ROBB-O? SURE
YA DO.



SAY! LISA TELLS ME YOU'RE A LAWYER?

CORPORATE, BUT I HAVEN'T
PRACTICED IN YEARS.

Too BAD. THINK I COULD
STILL TALK DIVORCE WITH
YA OVER DINNER? I'M NOT
SERIOUS, I'M JUST MESSING WITH
HER. IT KEEPS HER IN
LINE.

I REMEMBER
THINKING BRANGER
LOOKED LIKE HE COULD
FEED US FOR
WEEKS.

HOW'S YOUR DINNER, ROBBY?

IT'S FINE. I'VE JUST NEVER HAD SYNTH MEAT AGREE WITH ME.



HEAR THAT? SOUNDS LIKE YOUR DINNER'S A FLOP WITH THE NEIGHBORS.



HMM? WHY DON'T YOU SAY IT SO THEY CAN HEAR YOU?
I-I'M SORRY.



DON'T BE RUDE, ROBERT, FINISH EATING.

MR. BRANGER? SINCE WE'RE BOTH DONE, YOU HAD SAID YOU WOULD SHOW ME THE DECK?



OH! YEAH, FOLLOW ME.

RIGHT OUT HERE, OOH... DID YOU MAKE IT YOURSELF?
PRETTY LADY.



HEY, YOU? ELLIE? JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN YOUR DECK.





YOU KNOW,
I'M USED TO
THIS KIND OF
SHIT FROM
LISA, BUT
I DON'T KNOW
WHY YOU
PUT UP
WITH IT...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT...



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING, ROBERT?



I DUNNO, I THOUGHT
WE MIGHT—

YOU KNOW WHAT?
DON'T THINK. EITHER
TAKE A COLD SHOWER
OR SLEEP ON THE
COUCH.



THE HOSTILITIES CONTINUED INTO
THE NEXT DAY

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

BRANGER IS
TAKING ME SHOPPING.
SOMETHING YOU NEVER
DO.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECT. "SERIAL KILLER/
CANNIBAL" IS NOT QUITE AS LUCRATIVE OF A
CAREER AS MY LAST GIG. AND BY THE WAY?
GETTING INTO THIS LIFE WAS YOUR
IDEA.

WHATEVER. DON'T
EXPECT ME BACK TIL
LATE.

IT WAS MUCH LATER WHEN SHE FINALLY CAME BACK

HI LISA, DINNER'S ALMOST READY. JUST NEED—

THANKS ROBBO, BUT WE ALREADY ATE.

BOB, GET OUT. GO MOW THE LAWN OR SOMETHING.



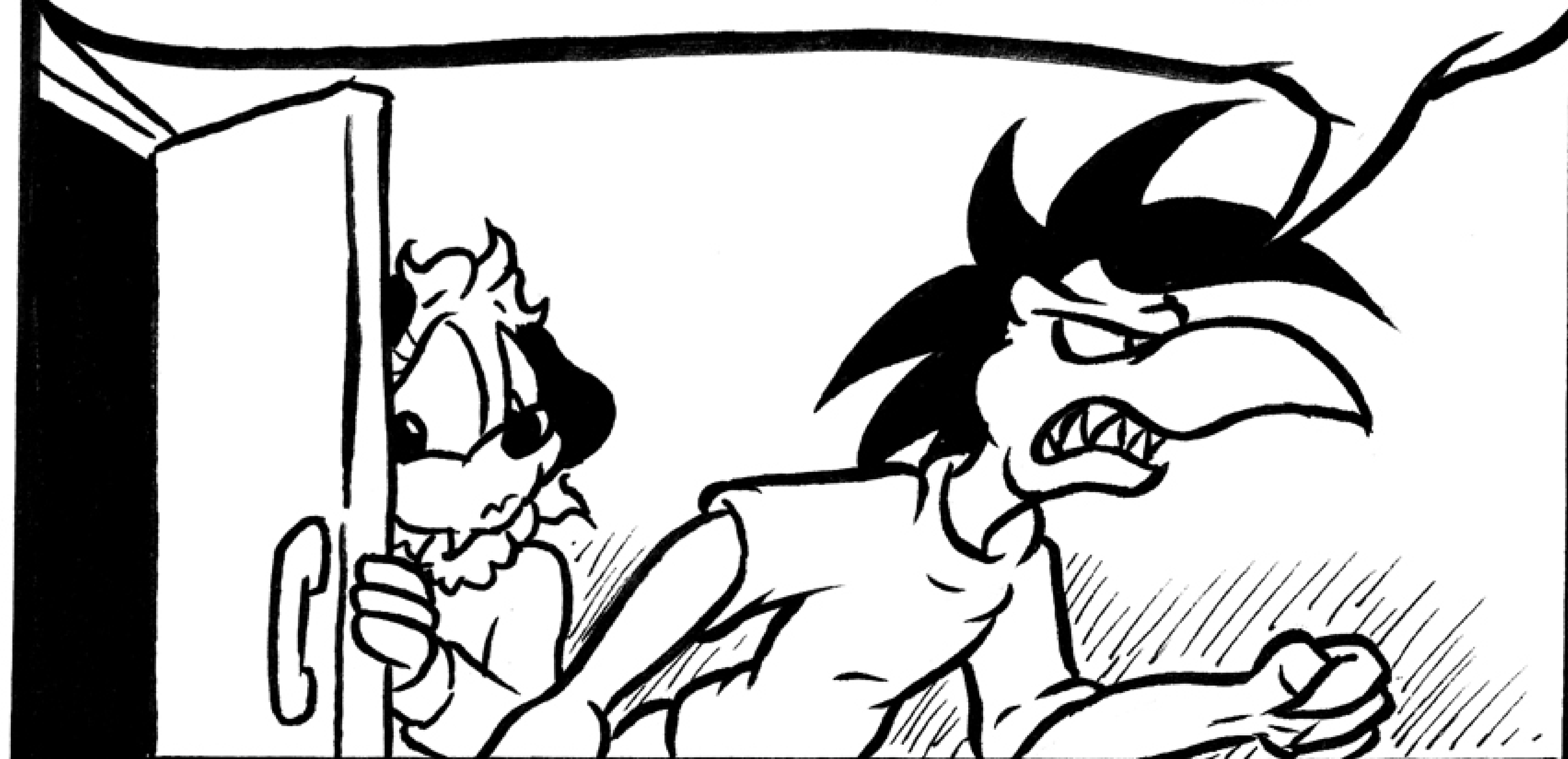
FINE. YOU WANNA BORROW MY WIFE? WELL THEN....



HEY! OPEN THE DOOR! I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE IN THERE!



YOUR HUSBAND IS AT MY PLACE, BY THE WAY...



WELL...? I JUST SAID BRANGER
IS AT MY PLACE. WITH MY
WIFE. AREN'T YOU GOING TO
SAY ANYTHING TO THAT?



WELCOME TO
OUR HOME.



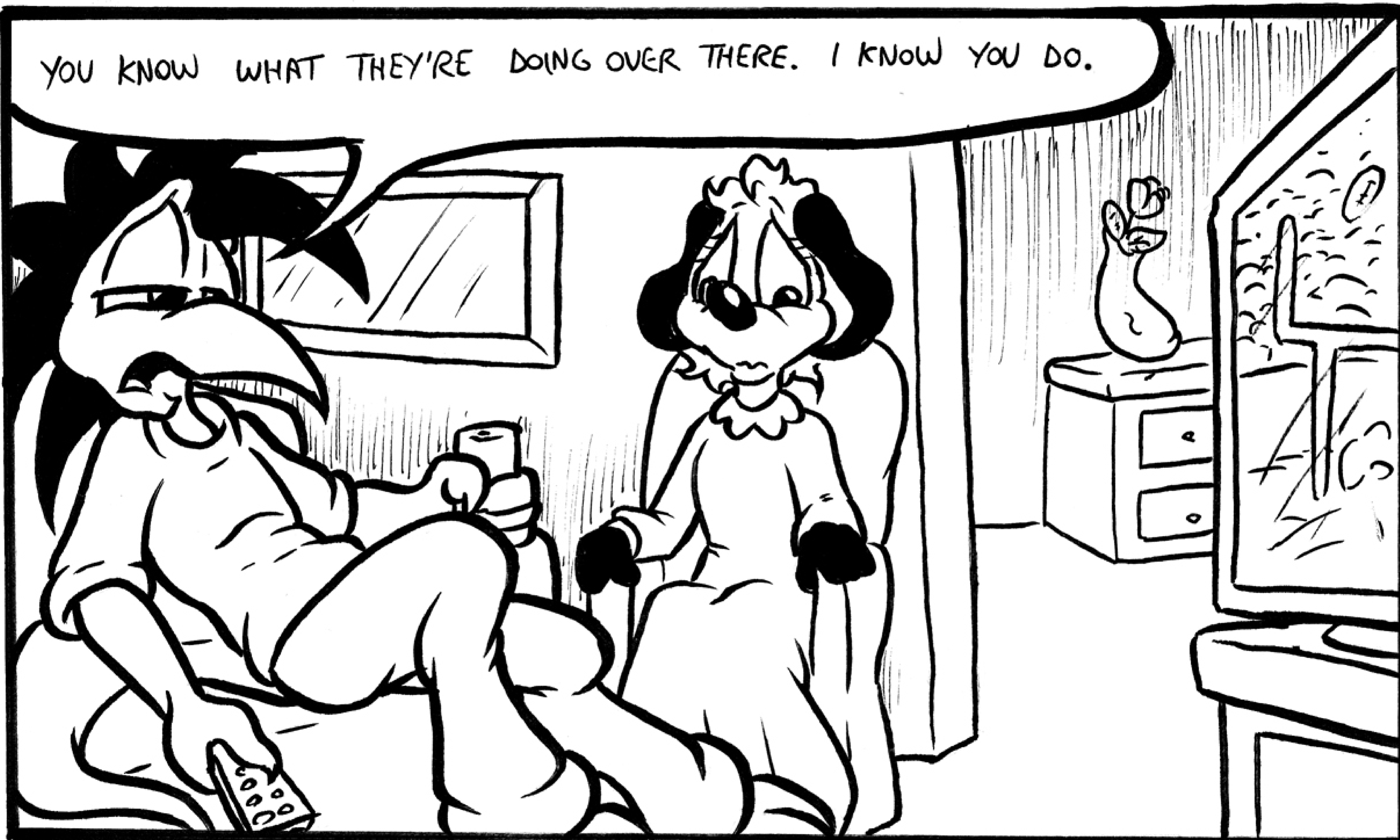
CAN I BRING
YOU ANYTHING?

....HUH?



DID YOU EVEN HEAR WHAT
I--
...A BEER, I GUESS.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING OVER THERE. I KNOW YOU DO.



THEY'RE FUCKING
EACH OTHER.



THEY KNOW THAT
WE KNOW.



WHY DO YOU
PUT UP WITH IT?

WHY DO
YOU...?



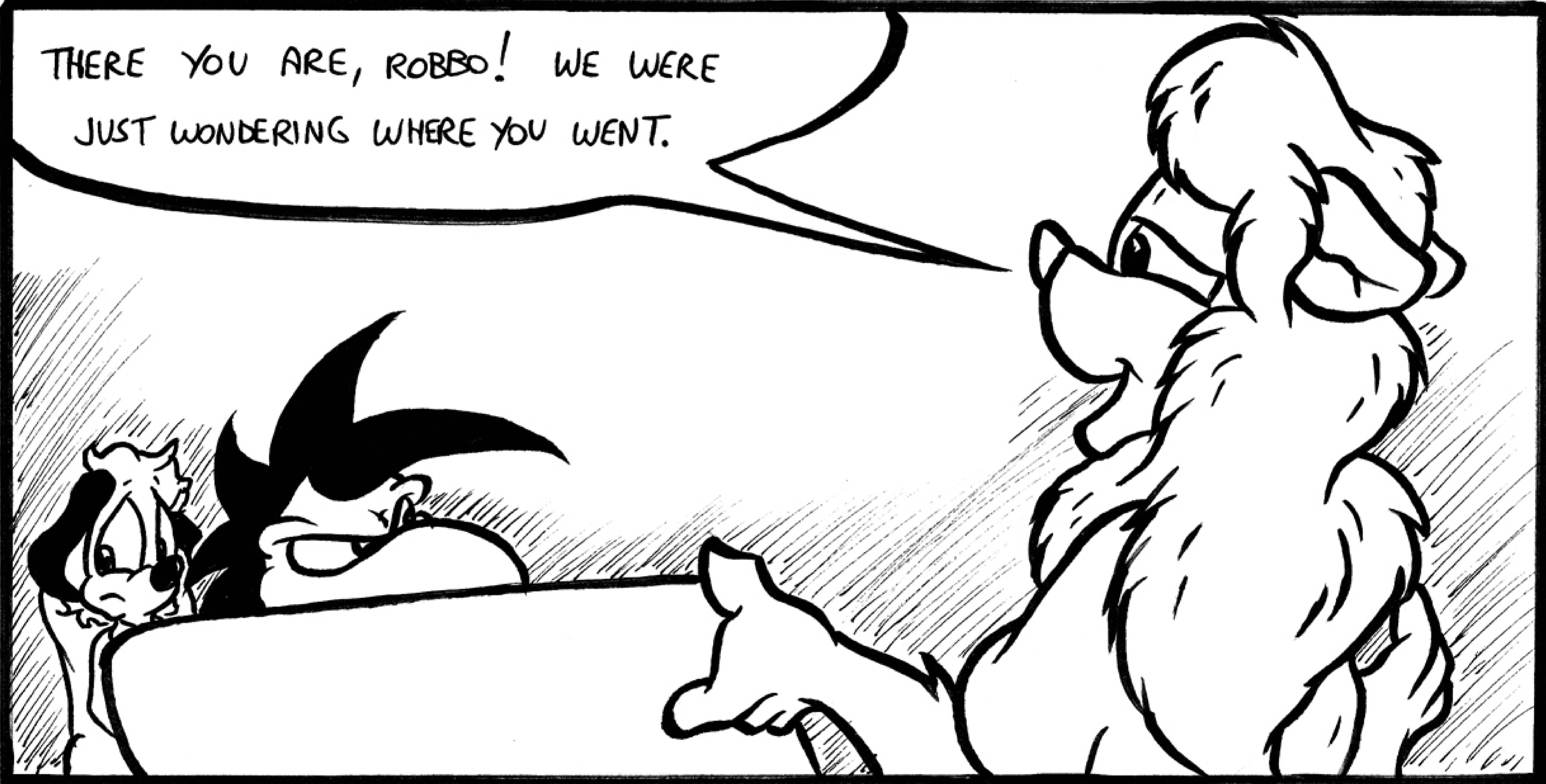
WHY DID I PUT UP WITH LISA? I'D
NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK MYSELF. THE EASY
ANSWER WAS BECAUSE WE WERE ON THE RUN.



M' SORRY...

BUT NOW THAT IT WAS OUT THERE, I THOUGHT
MAYBE I COULD DO BETTER

THERE YOU ARE, ROBBO! WE WERE
JUST WONDERING WHERE YOU WENT.





I WAS, AHH, HELPING YOUR WIFE PUT UP THE BOOKSHELVES

WHATEVER.

THANKS FOR THE BEER

YOU'RE WELCOME.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HAVING A MAN OVER WHEN I'M NOT AROUND?

M'SORRY...

THOSE ARE MY BEERS, NOT YOURS, TO HAND OUT TO FRIENDS. NOT ANY BUM THAT WALKS IN OFF THE STREET!

M'SORRY.

I COULD HEAR BRANGER YELLING AT ELIE FROM 'OUR' HOUSE FOR A LONG TIME AFTER I LEFT...

HEY. I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE IF I GOT YOU IN TROUBLE YESTERDAY.



THE NEXT DAY, LISA AND BRANGER WENT OUT AGAIN, SO I WENT TO CHECK ON THINGS



OH. YOU KNOW... I'M USED TO IT.

SO IS THERE ANYTHING I
CAN DO TO MAKE IT UP TO
YOU?



SHE FINALLY LOOKED
UP AT ME.



IF YOU WANT... YOU COULD
HELP ME HANG THE LAUNDRY.



WHEN LISA AND I FIRST GOT
TOGETHER, IT SEEMED LIKE WE
SHARED THE SAME "UNIQUE"
INTERESTS. BUT THAT DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE CUTTING IT ANY-
MORE. NOW WE JUST FIGHT
ABOUT EVERYTHING.



FOR THE FIRST COUPLE YEARS, BRANGER
WAS GOOD TO ME. BUT... THAT CHANGED AFTER
WE RELOCATED FOR HIS NEW JOB. I TRIED TO
TELL MYSELF I WAS IMAGINING IT WHEN HE FIRST
STARTED CHEATING.



AT SOME POINT, I GUESS HE REALIZED I WAS
WILLING TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY BECAUSE HE
STOPPED TRYING TO HIDE IT...



WHY NOT LEAVE
HIM, THEN?

I CAN'T. WE LEFT
EVERYTHING BEHIND WHEN
WE MOVED. FAMILY, FRIENDS...
AND OUR BANK ACCOUNT IS
IN HIS NAME.

BUT... AT LEAST YOU MOVED IN. SO IT'S
NOT ALL BAD NOW.

SLAM!

HE'S HOME! BOB,
PLEASE, YOU NEED
TO—

WAY AHEAD OF YOU. SEE YOU
TOMORROW, ELIE.

THAT NIGHT, I STARTED PRICE-SEARCHING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WHEN LISA DECIDED WE
NEEDED TO HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART.

I KNOW WHAT YOU AND THAT BITCH
NEXT DOOR ARE UP TO.

REALLY. WHAT MIGHT THAT BE, DEAR?

UNLESS YOU LIKE SLEEPING ON THE DAMNED COUCH, YOU'D BETTER CALL IT OFF. NOW!



I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THE COUCH. FOR ONE THING, I DON'T HAVE TO SLEEP IN THE WET SPOT YOU AND THE NEIGHBOR LEAVE IN THE BED.



GOODNIGHT, DEAR.



THE NEXT DAY, I'M BACK WITH ELIE WHILE LISA AND BRANGER ARE AWAY.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT, AND.... I REALLY THINK I'M READY TO LEAVE LISA.



I'M SORRY TO HEAR, BOB. I HOPE THINGS GET BETTER FOR YOU.



ELIE, IF YOU THINK YOU'RE READY TO LEAVE BRANGER TOO, I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY FOR A ONE-WAY TICKET BACK HOME.



I'LL NEED TO THINK ON IT, BUT... I WANT TO TAKE YOU UP ON IT. I REALLY DO.



WELL, IN THE MEANTIME, HERE'S MY WALLET. KEEP THE CHANGE.



IF I GET BACK HOME, I HOPE
YOU'LL VISIT SOMEDAY.



EHH...PROBABLY NOT. THE ONLY
WAY I'M GETTING AWAY FROM
LISA IS TO TURN MYSELF IN
TO THE POLICE.

AND WHEN I DO THAT,
THEY'LL...



...DEPORT ME. I WAS
NEVER HERE LEGALLY,
I'M AFRAID.



NO NEED TO RUIN THE
MOMENT WITH THE TRUTH

EVEN THOUGH LYING
TO HER RUINED IT
JUST AS NICELY.



I'M SORRY, BOB...

I REMEMBER WISHING
DESPERATELY THAT SHE
WOULD NEVER, EVER FIND
OUT.

... AND I HATE
MYSELF FOR IT.



I'M STILL MARRIED.
SO ARE YOU.



EVEN IF THEY
CAN DO IT...



.... NO.

... THAT DOESN'T
MEAN WE SHOULD
TOO.

PLEASE.



NOW I WAS THE
ONE WHO COULDN'T
LOOK HER IN THE EYES.



I--I'M SORRY, ELIE.

I SHOULD GO.



THAT NIGHT IN
MY STOLEN HOME

ALONE ON THE
COUCH...

I COULDN'T STOP THINKING
ABOUT ELIE.



MY EVENTUAL THOUGHT WAS THAT SINCE I WAS GOING TO TURN MYSELF IN
ANYWAY, I MAY AS WELL DO ONE LAST THING. SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE SURE
SHE WENT HOME.

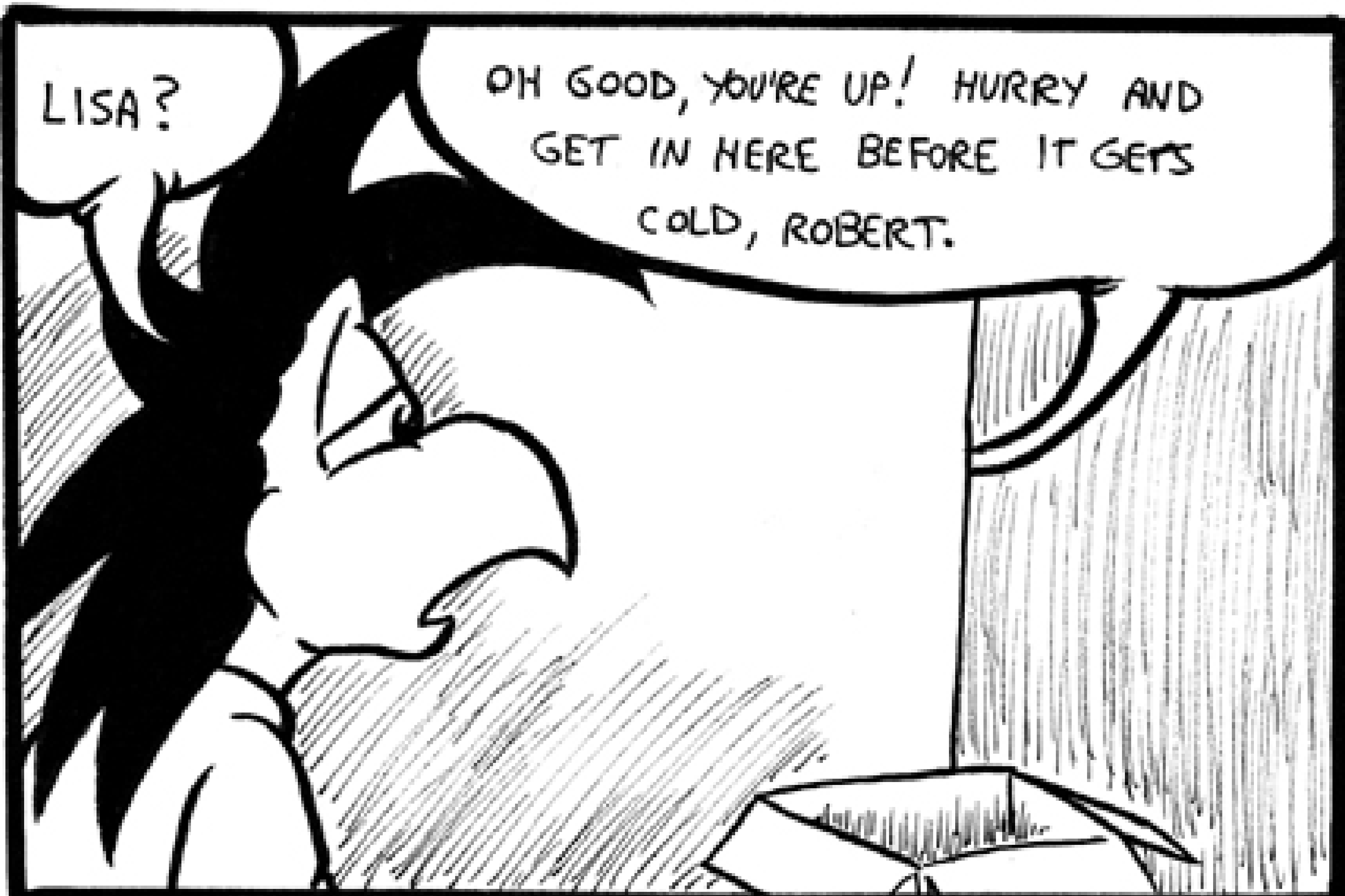


THE NEXT MORNING, I WOKE
UP TO THE SMELL OF LISA'S
COOKING AND WONDERED WHAT
THE OCCASION WAS.



LISA?

OH GOOD, YOU'RE UP! HURRY AND
GET IN HERE BEFORE IT GETS
COLD, ROBERT.



SHE MADE IT DIFFICULT
TO REMEMBER...



BUT LISA COULD, AT
TIMES, BE VERY GOOD TO
ME.



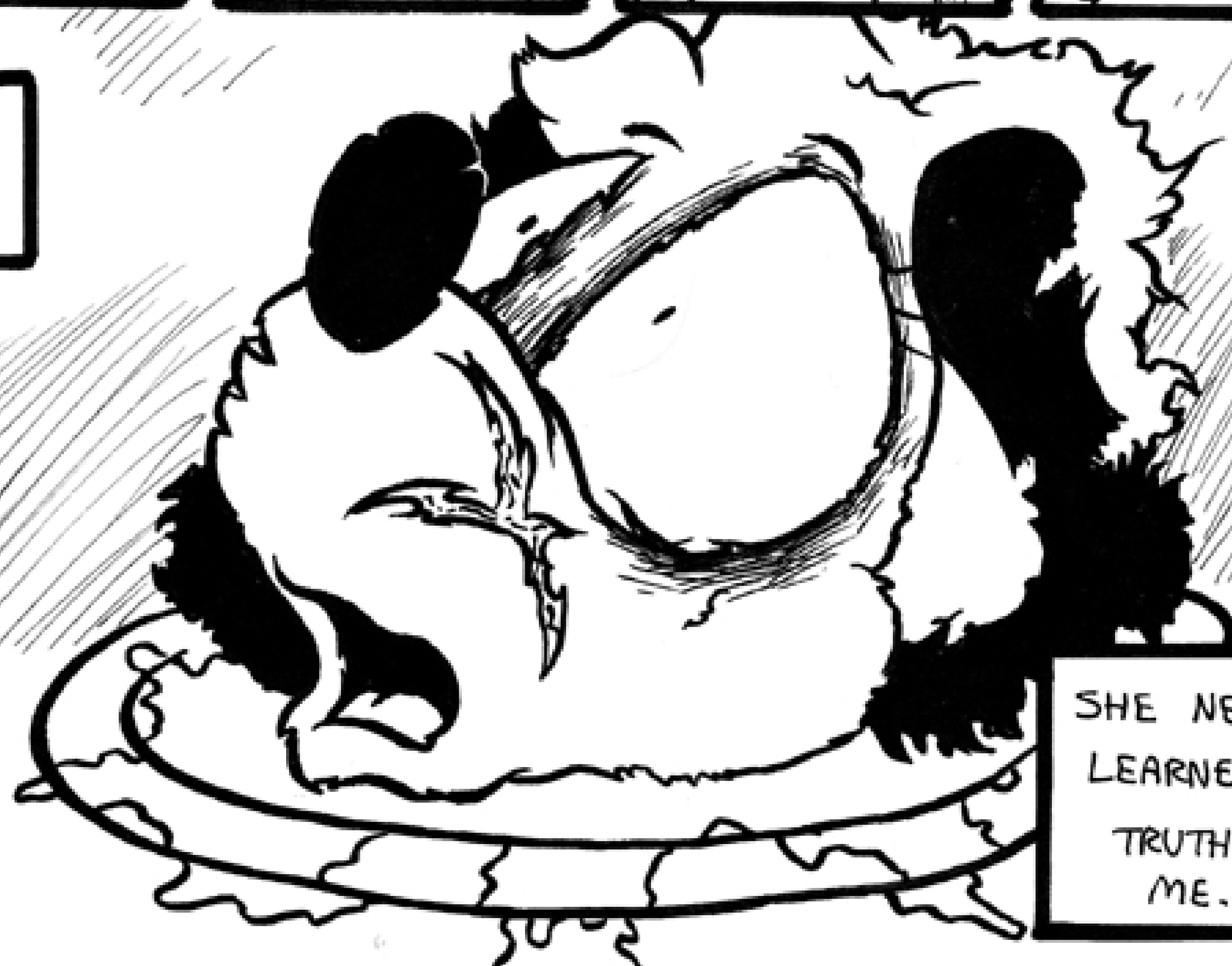
... THIS WASN'T ONE OF
THOSE TIMES...



AND FOR
DESSERT...



WISH
GRANTED.



SHE NEVER
LEARNED THE
TRUTH ABOUT
ME.

SHE HAD YOUR WALLET, ROBERT.



YOU NEVER STRUCK
ME AS PATHETIC
ENOUGH TO PAY FOR
IT.

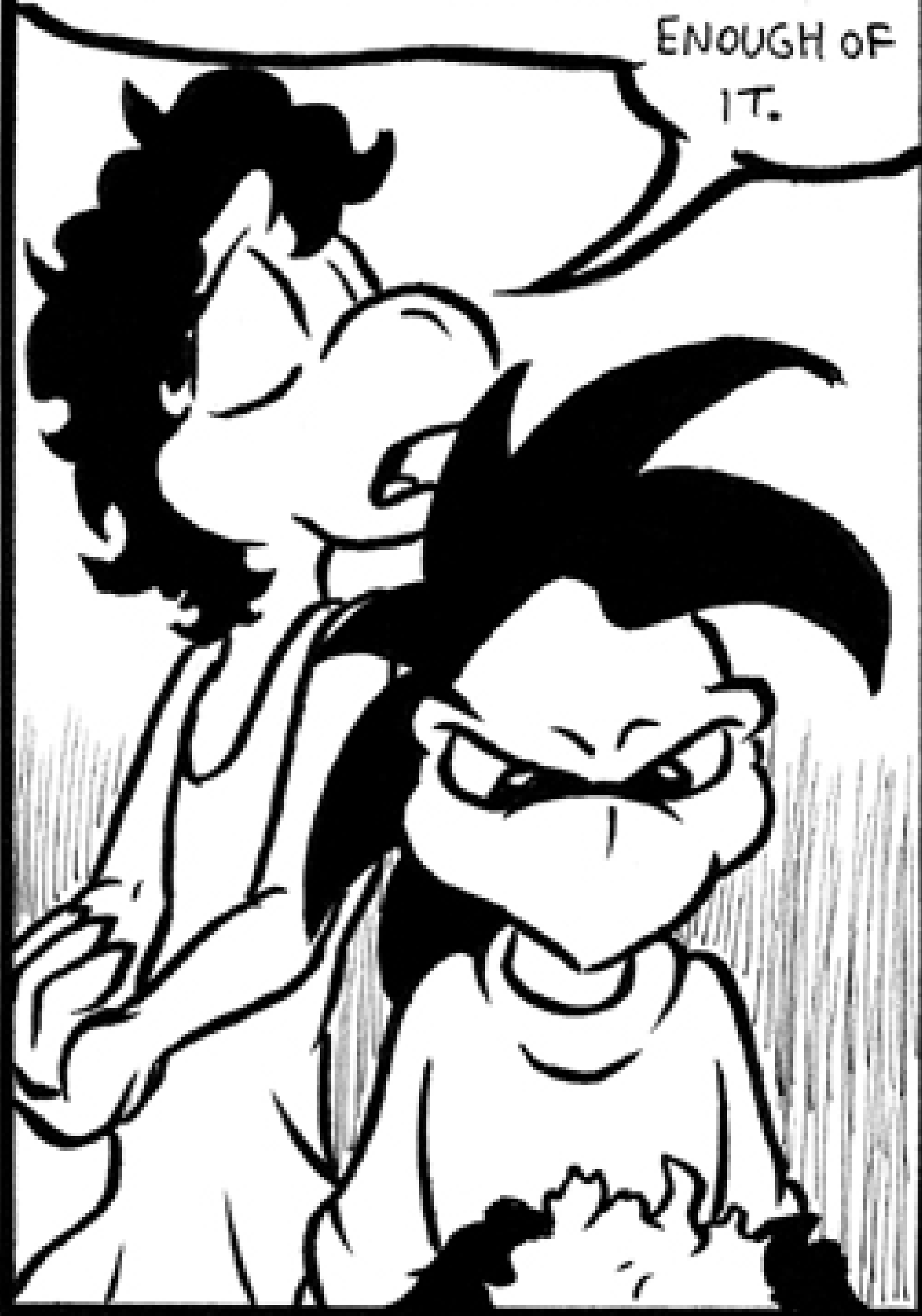


NOTHING TO SAY?



FINE. IT'S EASIER IF YOU DON'T TALK
ANYWAY. I'M LEAVING YOU, ROBERT.
BRANGER IS SELLING HIS HOUSE
AND TAKING ME WITH HIM FAR
AWAY FROM THIS MESS. I'VE HAD

ENOUGH OF
IT.



IF HE EVER FINDS OUT
ABOUT MY LIFE WITH
YOU, I'LL KILL HIM AND
MOVE ON. I'LL
SURVIVE.



YOU, ON THE OTHER
HAND, HAVE NO CHANCE
OF STAYING AHEAD OF
THE POLICE WITHOUT
ME.



HAVE A GOOD LIFE, ROBERT. IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW. IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SUCH A SHIT, MAYBE-

BEFORE YOU GO, LISA...

DON'T YOU WANT TO TAKE THOSE LEFTOVERS IN THE FREEZER WITH YOU?

No, No,
No, No...

NO!

ROBERT
VORSH
YOU SON OF
A
BITCH!

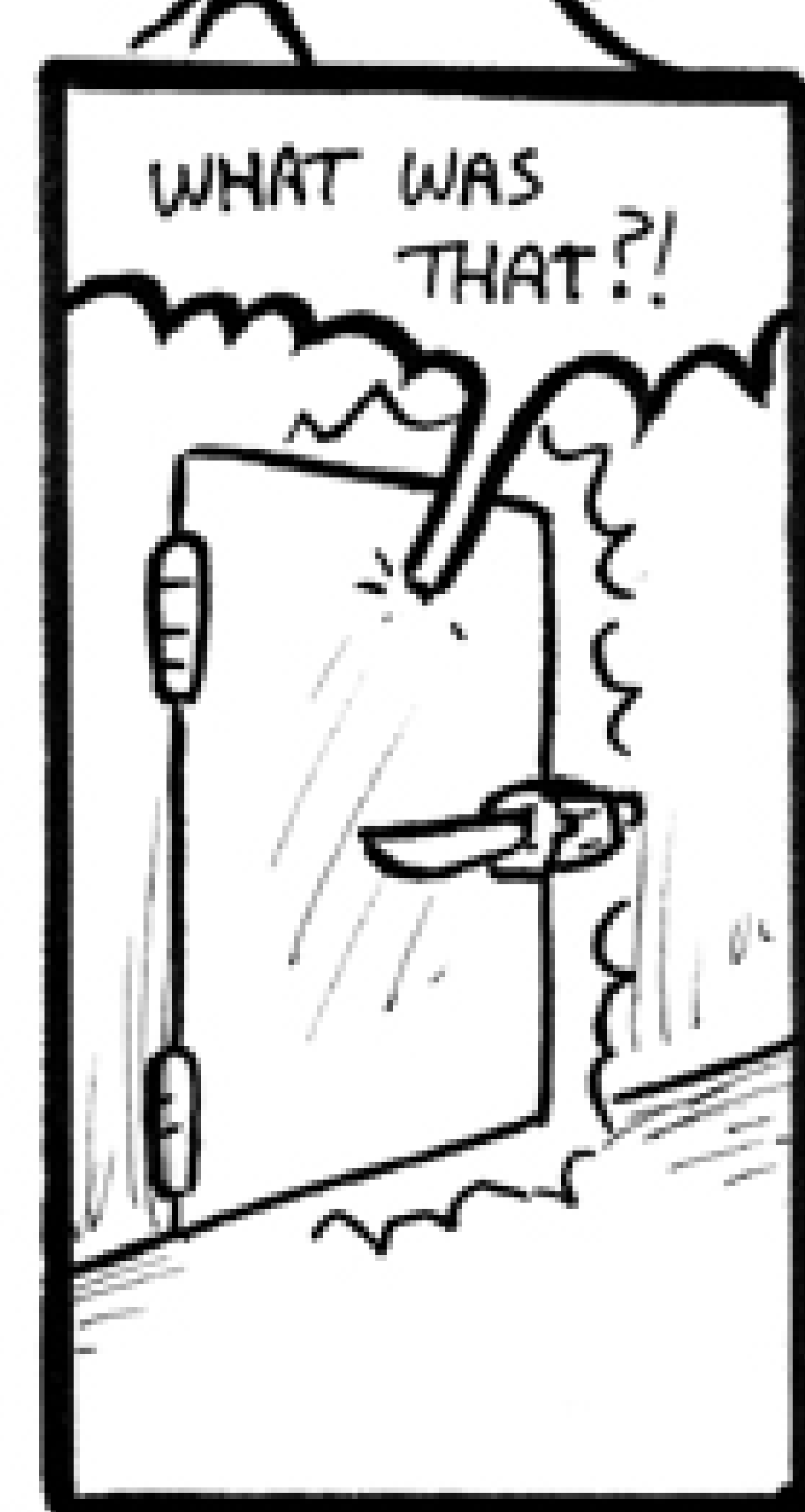
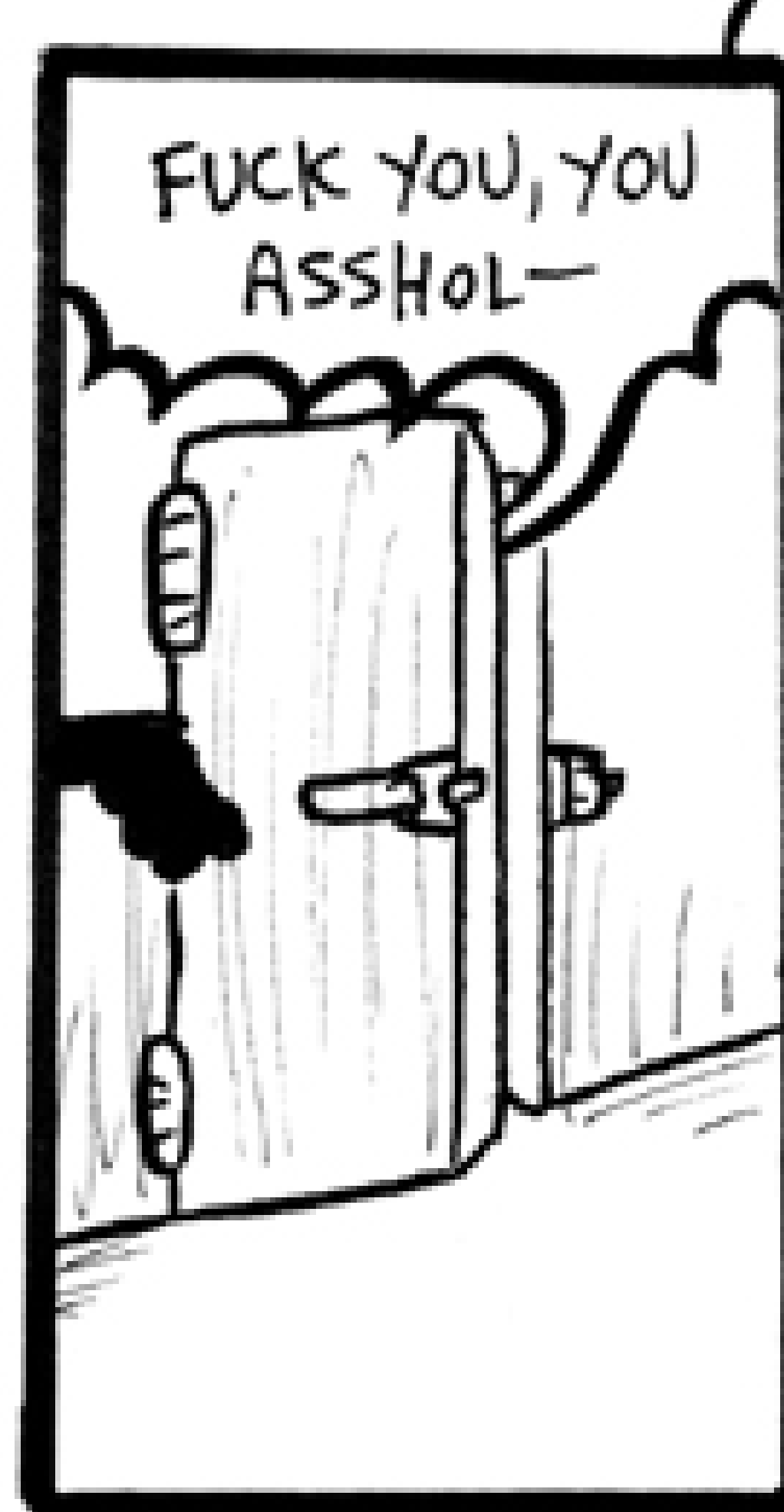


HE WAS MY TICKET OUT!
AWAY FROM THIS LIFE YOU
TRAPPED ME IN! AWAY
FROM YOU!

OWN YOUR PART IN
IT, LISA. ITS A LIFE
THAT YOU HELPED MAKE.

SOMEDAY YOU'RE GOING TO
UNDERSTAND, JUST LIKE I HAD TO,
THAT PEOPLE LIKE US...

... ARE DAMNED TO BE TOGETHER
FOREVER.



WE WERE TRAPPED IN THE FREEZER FOR DAYS. THE FOOD WAS QUICKLY EATEN



EVEN THE SYNTH MEAT. WE DIDN'T EAT TO SURVIVE, WE ATE TO MAKE SURE THE OTHER DIDN'T GET IT.



LISA EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO MAKE A CAPE OUT OF WHAT WAS LEFT OF BRANGER JUST TO TRY AND OUTLAST ME.



WHAT HAPPENED LAST WAS INEVITABLE.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE? WILL WE FREEZE, SUFFOCATE, OR STARVE FIRST?

YOU CAN DIE HOWEVER YOU LIKE...

BUT, I'M NOT GOING TO STARVE, ROBERT...



TO BE CLEAR, I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR REVOLUTION. I DON'T CARE ABOUT REDEMPTION, AND I AM NOT FOR ANY OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING.



... I AM AGAINST HER!

I DON'T THINK I NEED TO TELL YOU THAT'S A FUMSY REASON AND A ONE-SIDED STORY. BUT WE AREN'T IN A POSITION TO REFUSE ALLIES. YOU WILL BE WATCHED CAREFULLY, YOU WILL HAVE NO AUTHORITY, AND YOU ARE NOT TO DEVOUR ANY SOULS WHO HAVE SIDED WITH US.



RECKONIN? WILL YOU ACCOMPANY MR. VORSH TO THESE "PIPELINES" HE SPOKE OF?



OF COURSE.

YOU CLOSED THEM IN THE FREEZER AND KEPT THEM FROM ESCAPING?

I DID. I WAS WITNESS TO THE DEATHS OF ALL SEVEN SINS AND HELPED TO REMOVE FIVE OF THEM FROM EARTH.

ONCE THEY'RE BEYOND ANY HOPE OF REDEMPTION TO THE POINT THAT THEIR SIN HAS BECOME THEIR GREATEST WEAPON, I ENSURE THEY KEEP THEIR APPOINTMENT WITH YOU. IT'S ONE OF THE BURDENS OF BEING THE HIGHWING ANGEL. I DON'T TAKE IT LIGHTLY.

HEAVEN HELP THE LIVING IF ANY OF US HAD BECOME RUNNERS OR MISSED OUR CHANCE TO GO.

ALL THE SAME, IT DRAINS ME.

JACK, AFTER THIS BUSINESS BETWEEN YOU AND KANE IS DONE WITH, I'M GOING TO STEP DOWN.

BUT I THINK I COULD WAIT A LITTLE LONGER TO RESIGN KNOWING YOU WERE BACK ON EARTH AND WERE WILLING TO TAKE OVER ONCE YOU'VE REDEEMED YOURSELF

... BUT WHY ME?



HELLO, MR. VORSH...?

THAT UGLY SPAWN OF LUST'S WARNED ME YOU'D PESTER ME. FUCK OFF.



LISTEN TO ME. I OVERHEARD SOME OF YOUR STORY AND WENT LOOKING FOR ELIE.

WHAT?! WHY DID YOU DO THAT??



WELL, SHE WASN'T IN HEAVEN

WHY NOT?!

BECAUSE SHE ASKED TO GO BACK. SHE SAID SHE WASN'T HAPPY WITH WHO SHE'D TURNED INTO AND THAT SHE WANTED TO DO BETTER.




SHE SAID SHE'D MET SOMEONE SPECIAL JUST BEFORE SHE WAS KILLED WHO OPENED HER EYES BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO ACT ON HIS ADVICE. I THINK SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU.

HRNH...




WELL, HOT SHIT FOR HER, I GUESS.


YOU COMING OR WHAT, ANGEL? IT'LL BE DARK SOON.




SEE? YOU SEE?
MY FRIEND CAME
BACK



KNEW
HE WOULD
COME BACK




ANYTHING,
DRIP. ANYTHING
YOU WANT.



AS LONG
AS I GET TO
HAVE LITA IN
THE END...

TTFN



2/7/14 0215 PST